



## **Montana Community Finance Corporation Donates \$5,000 to Montana's Small Business Development Centers**

Montana Community Finance Corporation (MCFC) in Helena has donated \$5,000 to the statewide network of ten SBDCs across the state. The SBDCs provide valuable assistance in business planning and everyday business management issues. Through its network of referrals and resource partners, SBDC services are augmented to provide a full range of business assistance. In 2005, the Montana SBDC network counseled and trained 4,550 individuals.

Hosted by the Montana Department of Commerce for 18 years, the state SBDC Program receives \$500,000 of grant funds from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) that is distributed to ten local development corporations. These dollars are required to be matched 1:1 with funds from local economic development organizations and the State. This important Federal, state and local partnership allows business counseling to be free of charge in addition to lowering the cost of local business start-up classes. "This is a state of very small businesses, and anything we can do to help them start and stay in business helps the economy of the whole state," said Department Director Tony Preite.

The Montana Department of Commerce expresses its appreciation in providing the matching funds to the organizations that host the SBDCs. These individual gifts to the SBDC host organizations will go to providing direct counseling services to Montana businesses. The Department looks forward to continuing to work with MCFC and the SBA 504 program to help Montana businesses start and expand their businesses.

To find the SBDC nearest to you, please visit [www.sfdc.mt.gov/offices.asp](http://www.sfdc.mt.gov/offices.asp)